Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The Center for Crime Victims Services supports H.568, specifically the Sex Work Study Committee. We believe it is important to take this opportunity to assess what is happening in other states and to review Vermont’s current laws.

The Study Committee will allow us to research and identify any intended or unintended consequences of a future legislative change. It will allow time and provide resources to look carefully at issues related to human trafficking and prostitution.

The Center also supports the implementation of Good Samaritan laws. We recognize that forced sex workers and victims of human trafficking should not be prosecuted and should have immunity when reporting crimes to law enforcement.

Thank you for considering this important bill.